

THE WILSON BULLETIN.

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study of Living Birds.
Official Organ of the Wilson Ornithological Club.

Edited by LYNDS JONES.

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EDITORIAL.

The editor is pleased to announce that the next Bulletin will contain a list of the birds of Mount Mansfield, Lamoille county, Vermont, by Mrs. Elizabeth B. Davenport. Local lists are always of peculiar value and interest in these days of widespread study of the birds. They furnish a basis for study by those who are beginning to learn the birds, and enable them to make more accurate identifications in the field. They are also a great aid in the final compilation of a state list.

The next Bulletin will also contain an illustrated article on an unusual nesting place of the Great Horned Owl. The time is not far distant when this bird will be extinct in the eastern parts of the country, because he is so inordinately fond of poultry and other domestic animals which are raised for profit. He is too conservative to change his habits to save his neck, and must pay the penalty.

A useful piece of summer work would be the careful study of the bird fauna of any region in which you find yourself. It should be carefully borne in mind that some birds return from more northern breeding places in July and August, and any such species should not be included among the breeding birds. Therefore, keep a record of all birds with the dates for such records. Far too little attention has been given to the summer birds in most of the middle parts of

our country. It is really distressing to note the general lack of positive information regarding the nesting of several of our warblers. A great deal of valuable work may be done along these lines.

Valuable work may also be done in determining the latest nesting of many of our more common summer birds. We are usually alert to note and record the first nesting, but the summer finds us too inert to record if we notice, the last nesting. It is probably true that the southward movement of any individual among our smaller land birds is dependent in large measure upon the nesting. If the last brood is reared late in July the parents could not begin the southward movement until after the young were able to travel, or at least care for themselves, while other individuals which had completed their nesting much earlier would have already gone south. This is a much neglected influence upon the southward movements of the birds which any one may take up for study.

We are pleased to note that the wholesale milliners and the Audubon Societies have agreed upon a truce which ensures the protection of our native birds from the millinery trade. We hope it will result in proving that feathers are not a necessary part of woman's costume. If it should result in a complete revolution in the fashion of feminine headwear there would not be many bitter tears of disappointment shed!

In the middle west the migration season which has just closed has been unusual in several respects. Up to the first of April there was an unusually early movement of several species, induced by the unusually warm March weather. With the wet and cold of April nearly all movement was checked, and when the warm air finally called for migration in early May the nights were cool and clear, enabling the night migrants to pass over without stopping. Instead of swarms of warblers among the nearly bare trees one must search for any at all. At Oberlin the individuals were fewer than during any of the ten years of my experience here. But while the weather was unfavorable for large numbers of individuals it seemed to be favorable for some unusual occurrences, as a note on another page indicates. Ideal weather for crowded migrations would probably be a period of some two weeks of wet weather in the South, and cold nights with clouds or fogs in the North. The birds would then begin their northward movement in the South, fly up to the cloud or fog bank and be stopped. On the following day they would be delightfully numerous all along the border of the cloud bank and beneath it for some distance. On such a day the largest list should be made.

We are in receipt of a paper entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Audubon Society of North Carolina and to Provide for the Preservation of the Song and Game Birds of the State," which means that the birds of that state are to be looked after carefully and intelligently. It is always a pleasure to note the rapid advance which protective measures are making over the entire country. Not the least encouraging is the evident intelligent interest manifested by large numbers of persons where few or none seemed to care anything about the birds a few years ago.

A new magazine, "The Atlantic Slope Naturalist," calls for our attention. It is edited and published by Dr. W. E. Rotzell, at Narberth, Penn.; subscription price 30 cents a year. "The object of this little journal is to afford those interested in nature studies a medium through which observations may be recorded, opinions may be expressed, questions may be asked and specimens announced for exchange." It is devoted to natural history in general, and therefore appeals to a large constituency. The first number is full of interesting matter, which promises well for the future of the journal. Dr. Rotzell will make an able editor.

The reorganized Michigan Ornithological Club, in the first number of the fourth volume of its Bulletin, has proved that it is a force to be reckoned with in that state. The immediate work outlined for members of the club is of the right character to produce results. It goes without saying that the members mean business, and that Michigan ornithology will make rapid strides in the next few years. Geographically considered there is hardly a state in the Union in which a larger list of birds might be expected to occur. We look for some interesting things from this rejuvenated club.

GENERAL NOTES.

NOTES FROM RHINEBECK, DUTCHESS COUNTY, N. Y.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*).—A pair nested in 1899 in a large hole in an apple-tree, about six feet up. The tree was about ten yards from an inhabited house, and not far from a creek. The female, as she sat on her thirteen eggs, was so tame that she could be touched before flying off. When suddenly approached she would utter a hissing sound, resembling that of a swan. She and all her eggs were stolen. In 1901 a pair was shot near the same spot.